

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Introduction

The Technology Department has developed rapidly over the last few years. It is a large and diverse department that covers the teaching of Product Design, Resistant Materials, Electronics, Textiles and Food Preparation & Nutrition. It is made up of a strong and committed team of teachers who plan activities collaboratively.

Academic performance has remained consistently strong over the last three years apart from in Textile and Electronics where significant improvements have taken place, both areas achieved outstanding results in 2019. Progress in KS4 was judged to be very strong in 2019.

In the Sixth Form we currently offer A Level Textiles and Technology and Food Science and Nutrition. A Level progress in the department was very strong in 2019.

Staff and Accommodation

The department is made up of seven Technology teachers, many of whom have considerable experience and expertise. Teachers have high expectations, and work well together to create an atmosphere in which all students can fulfil their potential.

The department currently has a number of post holders with an overall Leader of Learning who is also the subject leader for Food Technology, a Key Stage 3 leader (responsible for Year 7 – 9), a subject leader of Textiles and a subject leader of Electronics. The Leader of Learning has an overview of departmental CPD, academic planning, student progress and the development of teaching and learning.

Members of staff teach across the age and ability range. There are specialist teaching spaces on both sites, this includes three dedicated and well-equipped Food rooms, two Textiles rooms and four rooms that contain a range of specialist equipment for use with wood, metals and plastic. There is also a design studio and a dedicated computing suite.

Curriculum

In Key Stage 3 students follow a carousel that involves them covering all of the specialist Technology areas on a rolling programme of lessons. This happens across Y7 – Y9, students spend a concentrated period in each area before moving on to the next specialism. We believe this approach enables students to make appropriate decisions about options in Key Stage 4.

In Key Stage 4 we offer Textiles, Food, Resistant Materials, Product Design and Electronics as GCSE options in Technology. Students study their optional subjects for five periods a fortnight (on a 50-period timetable), take up in Technology remains strong.

At Key Stage 5 students follow a two-year course.

Extra-curricular commitments and CPD

Most teachers offer extra support to exam classes in after-school sessions. While this is voluntary, the sessions are widely supported in the department.

CPD opportunities are extensive for members of the department, with teachers participating in departmental and whole school CPD throughout the year to enhance their professional development.